

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3890
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
SECDEF WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 2359

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EC, PE
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH PERU

1. ON APRIL 11 FONMIN JORGE SALVADOR LARA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS HIS RECENT TRIP TO ARGENTINA. IN THE CONTEXT OF A QUESTION ABOUT A STATEMENT SALVADOR MADE IN BUENOS AIRES WITH REGARD TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE FALKLAND ISLAND DISPUTE, A REPORTER ASKED ABOUT THE STATE OF ECUADOR-PERU RELATIONS. SALVADOR RESPONDED THAT, AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF ABNORMAL RELATIONS IN DECEMBER, RELATIONS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND PERU "ARE AT THIS TIME ABSOLUTELY NORMAL AT THE LEVEL OF AMBASSADORS." HE ADDED THAT HE BELIEVES THERE EXISTS A CLIMATE ADEQUATE TO INITIATE "ANY NEGOTIATIONS." SALVADOR STRESSED THAT A FRANK AND CORDIAL DIALOGUE WITH PERU IS IMPORTANT BUT THAT HE HAD ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT SUCH A DIALOGUE MUST INCLUDE "AN HONORABLE CONCILIATION OF OUR PROBLEM."

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2. COMMENT: ECUADOREAN MFA OFFICIALS ARE PAST MASTERS AT SPLITTING HAIRS. SALVADOR'S CHARACTERIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PERU AS BEING ABSOLUTELY NORMAL AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THIS. HE MEANS THAT IN THE FORMAL SENSE, I.E., OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, DIALOGUE BETWEEN BORDER MILITARY COMMANDERS, ETC., RELATIONS

ARE NORMAL. THE REFERENCE TO "OUR PROBLEM," HOWEVER, MAKES IT CLEAR THAT SOME RESOLUTION OF THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH PERU, AND PERHAPS THE ARMS IMBALANCE AS WELL, WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE TRULY NORMAL RELATIONS CAN BE ACHIEVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, SALVADOR, SINCE TAKING OFFICE, HAS ES-CHEWED BLANKET DENUNCIATIONS OF THE RIO PROTOCOL IN FAVOR OF A SOFTER LINE IMPLYING THAT A COMPROMISE, E.G., A CORRIDOR TO THE AMAZON-MARANON, WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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